

RESIST ENORMOUS PRESSURE

**Small Steel Balls Cannot Be Crushed by Ordinary Mechanical Devices.**

The resisting power of steel balls to pressure has never been actually determined, and recent tests reported to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers leave the question still in doubt. At these tests balls were procured of sizes ranging from one-half to one inch in diameter from six manufacturers, and the attempt was at first made to test the balls by crushing between hardened steel plates. Difficulty was experienced, however, in procuring steel so hard that it would not indent under the pressure to which it was subjected in contact with the balls, and the plan was adopted of placing three balls in a row in a special holder, pressure was then brought to bear upon the two outer balls, eventually crushing the middle one.

After this series of tests was completed a steel was found that answered the purpose for testing the balls between flat surfaces and another line of tests was conducted with the balls between two flat plates of this steel. A singular fact is that in the first series nearly all the balls were broken by the formation within the ball of a conical wedge which was gradually forced toward the center of the ball until the latter was split. The base of the cone was approximately circular, with its center at the point at which the crushing force acted.

IN A MILITARY HOSPITAL

**The Strange Effect of Medical Training on a Class of Orderlies.**

A class of orderlies had been carefully instructed by a medical officer on the subject of enteric fever. The instruction, says the Cornhill Magazine, was rather over their heads, and much time was wasted in trying to explain the origin of enteric from a specific germ. On going over the subject the following week the class was asked: "What did you learn about germs?" No answer. "Well, what are germs?" Much scratching of well-oiled heads, and solemn silence. "Come, now, what are germs?" Answer: "Them things wot you ketches wen you gits to bed at night."

PROSPERITY OF THE FARMER

**Vast Improvement in Agricultural Conditions Now as Compared with Those of 1804-05.**

The improvement in agricultural conditions now, contrasting with the depth of depression in 1804-05, is little appreciated by the outside public as was the farmers' condition during the hard times. It is conservative, however, to say that the produce of the United States farms for the past year was worth to the farmers over \$1,600,000,000 more than in either of the depressed years noted. This is an average advance of 31 per cent. in values compared with the low point.

These statements are made by the American Agriculturist for March, which contains an elaborate review of the agricultural situation from a financial and industrial standpoint. The live stock of the country is said to be worth \$700,000,000 more than during the hard times, or a gain of 35 per cent. Staples crops are worth \$400,000,000 more than, while other crops show an increase of \$200,000,000 in value, or a gain of 25 per cent compared with the depression of '04-'05-'06. The produce of live stock, such as meats, dairy products, calves, mutton, sheep and lambs, hides and pelts, colts, mules, etc., are said to show a gain of \$370,000,000, or 40 per cent. above the low point.

STREETS PAVED WITH GOLD

**An Old Miner Proves to a New Yorker That This Is True in Denver.**

The streets of Denver are paved with gold. Mark Watson, one of the "bers," proved it to W. P. Finley, of New York, the other morning. The miner called attention to the gravel thrown up in the excavation for a sewer on Sixteenth street, Denver's main thoroughfare.

"That's good placer dirt," said he.

To the easterner the dirt looked like any other and he doubted the miner's assertion.

"Bet you I can find 50 cents in an hour," said the miner.

The bet was accepted and the miner fell to work on the dirt at Sixteenth and Blake streets. He washed seven pans in the hour, absorbing the dust with mercury. An assayer tested the mercury amalgam and placed its value at 62 cents.

BRAZIL TO CELEBRATE

**Elaborate Preparations Being Made to Observe Anniversary of Discovery of Country.**

Elaborate preparations are being made for the celebration of the anniversary of the discovery on May 3, 1500, of Brazil, by Pedro Alvarez de Cabral. The celebration will extend over May 7. The committee in charge have arranged a programme, including military and naval reviews, the celebration of a grand mass, regattas, processions and illuminations. Gala opera performances, balls and banquets will also be given. Similar programmes have been arranged for Para, Bahia, Pernambuco, San Paulo, Belo Horizonte and Rio Grande do Sul.

Traveling Smoke.

During the volcanic eruption in the Hawaiian Islands, last summer, the smoke rose to a height of between five and six miles, and then drifted away to the northeast. At a distance of 600 miles from Hawaii it settled upon the surface of the sea, and was then carried back by the northeast wind to its place of origin, where it arrived a fortnight after its original departure, and covered the entire group of islands with its heavy pall.

Hard on the Cook.

A strange method of cooking an egg is sometimes employed by shepherds in the east. The egg is placed in a sling and whirled round and round until the heat of the motion has cooked it.

Passing of the Mule.

Compressed air motors are supplanting mules in Michigan mines.

Switzerland's President.

The president of Switzerland only gets \$2,700 per year, and the law forbids him to succeed himself.

New Orleans and Louisiana.

New Orleans represents more than the total valuation of the rest of Louisiana and pays more than half the taxes.

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